

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (currently amended): A machine structure, in particular for a machine for handling fluid products, comprising:

———a loadbearing frame including uprights, and

———one or more covering panels,

the uprights ~~(12)~~ extending in a substantially vertical direction and having an upper end close to or onto which is secured a first substantially horizontal upper plate ~~(14)~~ for connecting the uprights ~~(12)~~, a second substantially horizontal lower plate ~~(15)~~ being secured to the same uprights ~~(15)~~ to connect them in a zone beneath the first upper plate ~~(14)~~ and thus form a zone for housing the mechanism of the machine ~~(M)~~, at least one of the covering panels ~~(13, 13a)~~ being removably fitted between two uprights ~~(12)~~ in a covering position to at least partly cover the housing zone laterally, the uprights ~~(12)~~ having longitudinal connection means ~~(22, 24)~~ for restraining said covering panels ~~(13a, 13a)~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said connection means ~~(22, 24)~~ are configured to support under restraint said ~~side~~ covering panels ~~(13, 13a)~~ and at the same time to impart to ~~them~~ said covering panels a curvature with convexity away from the housing zone.

15. (currently amended): A structure according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said connection means comprise longitudinal channel or hooks ~~(22)~~ provided on relative

folded wings (21) defining lateral edges of said uprights (12), a panel (13, 13a) being hooked on facing longitudinal channel or hooks (22) of two adjacent uprights (12).

16. (currently amended): A structure according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said connection means comprise a folded corner plate (24) placed between said horizontal plates (14, 15) and each uprights (12), each of said folded corner plates (24) acting together wings (25, 26) provided along the perimeter of each of said horizontal plates (14, 15) to define a stop for a relative panel (13, 13a) and, together said longitudinal channel or hooks (22) to impart said curvature with convexity away from the housing zone.

17. (currently amended): A structure according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that it~~ comprises wherein there are three uprights (12).

18. (currently amended): A structure according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said second plate (15) is secured in a median zone of the uprights (12).

19. (currently amended): A structure according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the covering panels (13, 13a) extend vertically over a distance which is substantially equal to the distance between the two plates (14, 15).

20. (withdrawn): A structure according to claim 18, characterized in that at least one side panel (13a) extends over a length substantially equal to the height of the upright (12).

21. (currently amended): A structure according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that it~~ has further comprising a frontal zone ~~(16)~~ for working access to the functions of the mechanisms of the machine ~~(M)~~ housed within the structure.

22. (currently amended): A structure according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that it~~ has further comprising a working surface or support ~~(17)~~ provided in the front zone ~~(16)~~, mounted so that it can be drawn out or moved to disappear, or tilted.

23. (currently amended): A structure according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first upper plate ~~(14) comprises~~ comprises a plurality of shaped openings ~~(27)~~ to house and support components of the machine ~~(M)~~.

24. (currently amended): A structure according to claim 23, ~~characterized in that it~~ comprises further comprising a covering member ~~(28, 45)~~ located on the first upper plate ~~(14)~~ to at least partly cover one or more shaped openings ~~(27)~~.

25. (currently amended): A structure according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that it~~ comprises further comprising bracing ties ~~(30)~~ which connect the uprights ~~(12)~~ together.

26. (currently amended): An assembly kit for constructing a machine structure according to claim 14, the structure comprising:

—two or more elongated uprights ~~(12)~~,

–at least two plates (14, 15) connecting the uprights (12), connecting members to secure the plates (14, 15) to the uprights (12) at a predetermined distance, and

–one or more side covering panels (13, 13a) each designed to be restrained between two uprights (12);

~~characterized in that~~ wherein said uprights (12) comprise connection means (22, 24) configured to support under restraint said side panels (13, 13a) and at the same time to impart to them a curvature with convexity away from the housing zone.

27. (currently amended): A process for the assembly of a machine structure according to claim 14, comprising ~~the stages of~~:

–mounting the first upper plate (14) close to one end of each upright (12),

–mounting the second plate (15) on uprights (12) at predetermined distance from the said of each upright (12),

–mounting the components of machine (M) in the housing zone formed between the first (14) and the second (15) plate, and

–mounting the side covering panels (13, 13a) each between two adjacent uprights (12),

~~characterized in that~~

wherein each covering panel (13, 13a) is hooked on facing longitudinal channel or hooks (22) provided on a principal portion (19) of two adjacent uprights (12) in order to support under restraint each of said panels (13a, 13a) between said uprights (12) and at the same time impart to them a curvature with a convexity away from the housing zone.